

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2025
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF
NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District met in regular session on February 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in the Richard S. Bowers Water Conservation Learning Center Building at the North Plains Water Conservation Center, 6045 West County Road E., Dumas, Texas 79029-7201. The following people were present:

Members Present at 9:47 a.m.:

Daniel L. Krienke, President;
Bob B. Zimmer, Vice-President;
Harold Grall, Secretary;
Clinton Born, Director and,
Mark Howard, Director.

Staff present during part or all the meeting:

Janet Guthrie, General Manager;
Kristen Blackwell, Administration Manager;
Odell Ward, Aquifer Science Manager;
Baylee Barnes, Conservation Outreach Specialist, and
Paige Glazner, Conservation Outreach Assistant, via Zoom.

Others present during part or all the meeting:

Lynn Tate, Esq.;
David Sloane, Irrigronomy; and
Steve Walthour, via Zoom.

President Krienke declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m.

Bob B. Zimmer gave the invocation and led the pledge.

1. - Public Comment

No public comment was made to the board.

2. - Consent Agenda

Bob B. Zimmer moved to approve the regular board meeting minutes held January 7, 2025, and the Agriculture Committee meeting minutes held January 16, 2025; approval of District expenditures from January 1, 2025, through January 31, 2025, including the general manager's expense and activity report; approval of payment to Kemp Smith Law for professional services December 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025; and approval of payment to Underwood Attorneys at Law for professional services December 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025.

Mark Howard seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Agenda 3.a. - Consider resolution regarding optional personal property taxation in 2025 for the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District to property owners in Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hartley, Moore and Hutchinson Counties, Texas.

Annually, the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District determines whether it will tax optional personal property including:

- Personal boats;
- Personal vehicles;
- Airplanes;
- Motor homes; and
- Trailers

Mark Howard moved the board adopt the resolution not to collect the above-mentioned optional personal property taxes for 2025 in Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hartley, Moore and Hutchinson Counties, Texas.

Bob B. Zimmer seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Agenda 3.b. - Consider homestead exemptions for 2025.

Mark Howard moved the board approve the homestead exemptions for 2025 as follows:

- The greater of 10% of the taxable value or \$10,000 for a homestead
- \$100,000 – for persons over 65
- \$100,000 – disability SS
- The maximum percentage for disabled veterans

Clinton Born seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Agenda 3.c. - Receive report regarding the Ogallala Aquifer Project.

Steve Walthour presented this item to the board for reporting purposes.

No motion was made by the board.

Action Agenda 3.d. - Receive report and consider action as needed regarding public outreach, agriculture water conservation demonstration programs and the North Plains Water Conservation Center including but not limited to a report from David Sloane on the 2024 water conservation demonstration.

Baylee Barnes, Conservation Outreach Specialist, presented this item to the board for reporting purposes.

David Sloane made presentation to the board and presented a draft copy of his final report. Mr. Sloane stated he would send an electronic copy to the board for feedback.

No motion was made by the board.

Action Agenda 3.e. - Receive report and consider approval of contract with Stan Spain.

Harold Grall moved the board approve extending the existing contract with Stan Spain for one year.

Bob B. Zimmer seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Agenda 3.f. - Receive report and consider approval of contract with Dr. Jourdan Bell.

Bob B. Zimmer moved the board approve the proposed contract with Dr. Jourdan Bell for consulting services beginning April 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2025 with a total cost not to exceed \$108,000.00

Mark Howard seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Agenda 3.g. - Consider approval of support of Master Irrigator Foundation.

David Sloane presented this item to the board for consideration.

Harold Grall moved the board authorize the general manager to pursue development of an interlocal agreement with the Master Irrigator Foundation which will contain the scope and contingencies the agreement would be based on.

Clinton Born seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Agenda 3.h. - Consider approval of updates to Master Irrigator and Meter Reimbursement guidelines and Master Irrigator inspection requirements.

District staff worked with the Agriculture Committee and presented updated Meter Reimbursement and Master Irrigator program guidelines and inspection requirements and updated the board the Meter Reimbursement program would restart beginning March 1, 2025.

Harold Grall moved the board approve the updated Meter Reimbursement and Master Irrigator guidelines and inspection requirements as presented.

Clinton Born seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Agenda 3.i. - Receive report regarding field inspection services completed in January, 2025.

Odell Ward, Aquifer Science Manager, presented this item to the board for reporting purposes.

No motion was made by the board.

Action Agenda 3.j. - Consider final compliance approval of water well permits as active and complete wells, review permits issued and permitting graphs from January, 2025.

The following list of wells were presented to the board for final compliance approval.

Well #	Class	Quarter	Section	Block	Survey	N S	E W
DA-13012	C	NE	68	2	CSS	427 N	93 E
DA-13232	B	NE	7	3	CSS	152 N	118 E
DA-13233	B	NE	7	3	CSS	871 N	251 E
DA-13235	B	CNTW	9	3	CSS	21 N	132 E
DA-13270	C	NE	43	5	CSS	269 N	827 E
DA-13291	C	SE	431	1-T	T&NO	409 S	661 E
DA-13327	C	NW	38	5	CSS	106 N	651 W
DA-13374	B	NE	22	1	CSS	243 N	545 E
DA-13386	C	NW	2	2	SPRR	771 N	103 W
DA-13390	B	SE	17	2	CSS	195 S	215 W
DA-13391	C	SE	22	1	CSS	641 S	92 E
DA-13393	B	SE	124	4	CSS	332 S	505 E
DA-13394	B	SE	124	4	CSS	309 S	793 E
DA-13395	B	NW	123	4	CSS	17 N	1032 W
DA-13399	B	SW	2	WK	WA Ketchum	721 S	7 W
HA-13179	B	SW	45	11	CSS	527 S	11 W
HA-13181	C	SE	39	11	CSS	765 S	139 E
HA-13392	D	NE	25	LE	G&M	430 N	195 E
HA-13425	C	SW	Joseph Beaty			363 N	62 W
HN-4285	C	SW	202	2	GH&H	104S	421W
HU-6938	C	SE/4	6	R-2	D&PRR	514S	116E
MO-13032	D	NW	250	3-T	H&B	312 N	424 W
MO-13490	B	SE	97	3-T	T&NO	102 S	786 E
OC-7725	A	NE/4	119	10	HT&B	111 N	304 E
SH-0378	A	NW	165	1-T	T&NO	798 N	27 W
SH-1158	B	SE	23	1-C	GH&H	484 S	280 E
SH-13276	C	SW	9	3-T	T&NO	620 S	48 W
SH-13375	C	SW	28	3-B	GH&H	28 S	649 W
SH-13382	B	SE	59	1-T	T&NO	631 S	330 E
SH-13383	B	SE	59	1-T	T&NO	866 S	426 E

Harold Grall moved the board approve well permit HA-13392 represented in the table above as an active and complete well because the well is properly equipped and otherwise complies with district rules.

Bob B. Zimmer seconded the motion, and it was approved with Mark Howard abstaining from the vote.

Bob B. Zimmer moved the board approve the remaining well permits represented in the table above as active and complete wells because the wells are properly equipped and otherwise comply with district rules.

Mark Howard seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Action Agenda 3.k. - Receive report regarding the status of 2024 annual production reporting.

Kristen Blackwell, Administration Manager, provided the board with an update on 2024 annual production reporting.

This item was presented to the board for reporting purposes.

No motion was made by the board.

Action Agenda 3.l. - Receive report and consider action regarding compliance matters before the District.

Kristen Blackwell, Administration Manager, presented the following report to the board, orally and through the board packet:

Compliance Update for Board Consideration from Previous Meeting(s)

Name	Well Number(s) & GPU	Board Decision and/or Status Since Last Meeting
BLF	8266, 8263, 8268, 8267 – Exceeded 2023 annual production limitation.	Unresolved
BLF	HA-5814 GPU 8287 not properly plugged by board due date	Unresolved
BLF	3354, 3366, 5248, 5256, 5260, 5770, 8239, 8255, 8263, 8267, 8268, 8274, 8281, 8282, 8291, 8297, 8799, 8801, 8802, 8803, 9623 & 9713. Late 2023 Annual Production Report(s)	Unresolved
John Loeppky	GPU 9301 Wells MO-12726 & MO-12727	Legal Demand letter sent 01/21/25 and due by 03/28/25. Updates will be provided at the April 2025 board meeting.
John Loeppky	GPU 9303 Wells MO-12728 & MO-12813	Legal Demand letter sent 01/21/25 and due by 03/28/25. Updates will be provided at the April 2025 board meeting.

February 2025 Compliance for Board Consideration

Name	Well Number(s) & GPU	Compliance Issue(s)
Wade Burgess and Michael Pearson	GPU 9942	As per the settlement agreement dated 5/7/24, GPU 9942 is required to report production on or before January 15 th in 2025, 2026 and 2027. The report was filed on 01/23/2025.

This item was addressed in Closed Session held under Item N of these minutes.

Action Agenda 3.m. - Discuss BLF Land, LLC, et al. v. Allen Frerich, et al., No-CV-133-Z (N.D. Tex. Aug. 8, 2023).

This item was addressed in the Closed Session held under Item N of these minutes.

Action Agenda 3.n. - Closed Session.

Executive Session - Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

At 11:55 a.m. President Krienke closed the meeting for consultation with legal counsel as authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, which allows a closed meeting to discuss pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers or matters where the duty of counsel to the District, pursuant to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas, clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Under the authority of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the President declared that we will now close this meeting to the public for the purpose of: Consultation with legal counsel as authorized by Sec. 551.071, Government Code, which allows a closed meeting to discuss pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or matters where the duty of counsel to the District, pursuant to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas, clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

President Krienke stated that this is a Closed Session of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors on February 12, 2025, commencing at 11:55 a.m. At 12:28 p.m., the board reconvened into regular session.

President Krienke stated that it is my duty to remind you as board members that discussions held in closed session are confidential. In the event of a breach of this confidentiality by an individual director, the disclosure is not to be construed as a waiver of the District's attorney-client privilege. A known disclosure to a member of the public of a tape recording of a closed session constitutes a criminal violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act. This concludes the closed session of the Board of Directors at 12:28 p.m.

President Krienke stated that the meeting of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors is hereby reopened to the public on February 12, 2025, at 12:28 p.m. No formal action was taken by the Board of Directors during closed session.

The board reconvened into regular session at 12:28 p.m.

Action Agenda 3.o. - Consider recommendations regarding matters discussed in Closed Session.

No motion was made.

Discussion Agenda 4.a. - Director Reports regarding meetings and/or seminars attended, weather conditions and economic development in each Director's precinct.

Director reports were presented to the board.

Director Mark Howard left the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Discussion Agenda 4.b. - Committee Reports.

No Committee reports were presented to the board.

Discussion Agenda 4.c. - General Manager's Report.

The general manager presented her report to the board in the board packet.

Vice President Bob B. Zimmer left the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

Discussion Item 5 - Set Next Meeting Date and Time

The March meeting of the board was confirmed for March 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, President Krienke declared the meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.



Daniel Krienke, President



Harold Grall, Secretary

